

Merrimack Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Merrimack Town Hall, Memorial Conference Room
7:00 pm

Attendees: Chris Christensen, Laura Jaynes, Christine Lavoie, Dan Ricker, Julie Poole, Jackie Flood, Dan Dwyer- Town Council, Maureen Hall- Senior Citizens, Rick Greenier – MYA.

Parks and Recreation Director: Matt Casparius

Absent:

Excused: Michelle Cushman, Cinda Guagliumi, Melissa Kowalewski

Start time: 7:07 pm

- 1 Open Meeting/Introductions
- 2 Approval of minutes from January 20, 2016-
 - Christine Lavoie made the motion to accept the January Meeting Minutes
 - Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion.
 - Minutes were approved: 7,0,1 (Dan Dwyer arrived vote.)
- 3 Old Business
 - Update from the Friends of the Merrimack Dog Park - Matt Casparius and Christine Lavoie
 - Financial Update: The Committee is waiting for release of contest money. It's a lengthy paper process.
 - Income Received \$220.00
 - Expenses \$ 0
 - Net Balance \$28,565.72 + \$25,000 (Pet Safe) = \$53,565.72
 - Upcoming events:
 - Members of the Dog Park Committee will be at Easter Egg Hunt
 - Tuesday, February 23: Fundraiser at Sal's Pizza- The whole business day. 10% of proceeds will go to the Dog Park.
 - March Fundraiser at the 99 Restaurant: Date to be determined.
- 4 New Business
 - CIP and future recreation needs for the town: Matt stated that we need to look at making long-term plans for athletic fields. He would like to have a 6 year plan to create a Capitol Reserve Fund. (CRF)
 - He spoke of the need for field rotation.
 - Should we develop a subcommittee to look at sites?
 - Dan Ricker spoke of landscape designs and who does that.
 - The status of various sites were mentioned:
 - 23 acres at Horsehill Preserve
 - Turkey Hill

- Elbit business fields
- Basketball court use?
- Rick will approach MYA to prioritize their field needs. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

Rick spoke of the need for rectangular fields with multiuse options such as soccer and lacrosse as well as softball fields.

5 Director's Report

A. Update on Establishing a Recreation Revolving Fund:

- Matt presented a draft purpose statement, known as Article 9, to be voted on by the Merrimack Voters on April 12, 2016.

It is a very clear and detailed document with the intent of establishing a Recreation Revolving Fund to provide a system that will encourage self-funding of Recreation programs in a creative and flexible way. The committee commended Matt on his good work and supports this effort.

B. Summer Camp

- Summer camp registrations are ahead of where they were last year probably due to the ability to use charge cards. Camp this year is \$200 per week for Merrimack residents
 - Hiring Update: A new Director is coming. 95% of camp staff is already hired.
 - New Summer Camp Programs
 - Preschool program: This introduction camp is a ½ day program @ \$90/week.
 - Drama Camp: 1 week after summer camp is out @ \$140/week.
 - Trek Camp for Teens: Field Trips with destinations @ \$250/week.

C. Wasserman Park Improvements Update:

- The water line placement has begun at the Park with 70% done with completion set for April.
- Work will be done on the plumbing/heating systems in the Function Hall.
- Plans to raze the Wasserman House will begin this spring.

D. The 24th Annual Winter Carnival, scheduled for February 20, has been cancelled due lack of snow/winter weather.

- E. Ice Rink- There was discussion about the Ice Rink as the weather has been poor. The Rink is now closed as there is now damage to the liner. Maureen Hall asked who is in charge of the rink and tennis courts. These facilities are managed by the Parks & Recreation Department, but the land those facilities are on is owned by the School District. Dan Dwyer mentioned that there is talk of moving the Ice Rink to Watson Park.

6. Organization Reports

- Senior Citizens Club- Maureen Hall

- The installation Dinner for newly elected Officers was awesome.
- There is much remodeling going on at the John O’Leary Building. The Club members are very excited about the upgrades.
- Programs/trips are filling up, with a concert with an Elton John/Billy Joel cover band in May.
- MYA - Rick Greenier
 - Rick reports that things are rather quiet with spring sign-ups being mostly done on-line.
 - Wrestling and basketball programs are finishing up.
- Town Council –Dan Dwyer stated that we should spread the word about Article 9 and how it works for everyone!
- School Board – not present

7 Comments from the Public - was nothing

8 Comments from the Committee

9 Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, March 16th
- Wednesday, April 20th

10 – Adjourn at 7:50

- Dan Dwyer made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm.
- Laura Jaynes 2nd the motion
- 9-0-0 motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Laura K. Jaynes